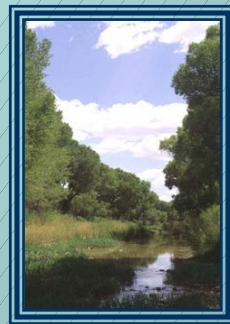




# UPPER SAN PEDRO PARTNERSHIP

## PROTECTING ARIZONA'S WATER RESOURCES



Protecting the Upper San Pedro River Watershed resources is essential to the conservation of one of the most biologically diverse ecosystem's on Earth.

The upper San Pedro valley ecosystem rates second in biodiversity of land mammals on Earth. In addition to 87 species of mammals, this ecosystem provides habitat for 390 bird species, 68 amphibians and reptiles, and 180 species of butterflies. The American Bird Conservancy has labeled the San Pedro as an "Important Bird Area" (IBA) and the Nature Conservancy has deemed it as one of the "last great places." The San Pedro Watershed provides critical habitat for 2 federally endangered species: The Southwestern Willow Flycatcher and the Huachuca Water Umbel.

Unfortunately, these species and the ecosystem they inhabit are suffering from deficit groundwater pumping in the San Pedro region.



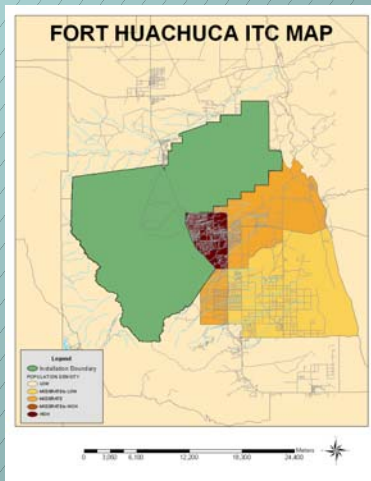
The San Pedro watershed is essentially "drying up" It is estimated that base water flows have decreased by more than 60% since the 1940's. This is the result of population expansion and agricultural irrigation in the area. In order to protect the San Pedro surface flows and associated biodiversity, it is essential that water consumption be reduced.

Fort Huachuca is a federal facility and is adjacent to the San Pedro river. Therefore the responsibility of restoring the watershed has rested largely on Fort Huachuca. Being a federal agency Fort Huachuca is required to protect and restore endangered species in addition to maintaining military readiness. The 2 endangered species (Southwestern flycatcher and Huachuca water umbel), that exist on the installation's land and water resources, are dependent on the San Pedro watershed. Therefore, it is essential that the water resources of the area be restored to recover these species. Fort Huachuca has significantly reduced its water consumption on the installation through various water conservation projects. However, with the rapid development around the installation, it is not enough. Something must be done with private lands surrounding the installation to reduce water consumption before it is too late.

# THE SOLUTION

Partnering of various governmental and non governmental agencies to purchase water rights is an important step towards conservation of the San Pedro ecosystem.

The upper San Pedro Partnership has worked to conserve the San Pedro Water Basin while maintaining military readiness. A major tool for this conservation is the purchase of conservation easements from willing sellers. The proposed partnership lands consist mostly of large ranch lands (most greater than 100 acres) that divide the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area. The purchase of land and/or conservation easements in this area provides continuity of habitat and protects those species dependent on the watershed. Though the partners have a variety of objectives, the conservation of the San Pedro River Basin benefits all.



## THE PARTNERS AND THEIR ROLE



The Army is committed to maintaining military readiness while conserving endangered species on installations. The purchase of water rights on lands surrounding Fort Huachuca will aid the Army in meeting its requirement to protect and recover endangered species. In addition the Army earns credits towards its obligation to reduce groundwater pumping. The Army provides funds for the acquisition of easements.



The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) sustains the health, diversity, and productivity of public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The water rights acquired through the partnership will be managed by BLM.



The Nature Conservancy (TNC) protects diverse and natural communities through the acquisition of land. TNC serves as the partnership's major realtor. They officially purchase the conservation easement and land title from the willing land owner, using partnership money.



The US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) works with others to conserve wildlife for the benefit of the American public. USFWS provides water credits to the Army in exchange for funding land acquisition.